

IN THE CLAIMS:

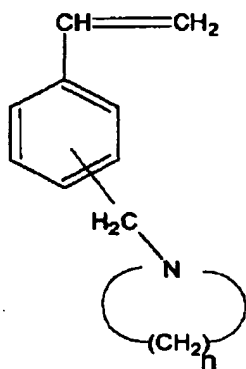
Please amend the claims in the subject patent application as follows:

1. cancelled

2. (currently amended) A high vinyl polydiene rubber which is comprised repeat units that are derived from at least one conjugated diene monomer and a functionalized monomer, wherein at least 50 percent of the repeat units are of vinyl microstructure based upon the total number of ~~polydiene repeat units~~ diene repeat units in the rubbery polymer, wherein said high vinyl polydiene rubber has a weight average molecular weight of at least 300,000, wherein said high vinyl polydiene rubber has a monomodal polydispersity of ~~at least~~ at least 1.3, and a ratio of radius of gyration to weight average molecular weight of greater than 0.078 nm³mol/kg, wherein the radius of gyration is determined at the weight average molecular weight by multi angle laser light scattering and wherein the weight average molecular weight is determined by multi angle laser light scattering.

3-12. cancelled

13. (original) A rubbery polymer as specified in claim 2 wherein the functionalized monomer is of the structural formula:



wherein n represents the integer 6.

14-25. cancelled

26. (original) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in claim 2 wherein the ratio of the radius of gyration to weight average molecular weight of the high vinyl polydiene rubber is greater than 0.08 nm²/mol/kg.

27. cancelled

28. (original) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in ~~claim 27~~ claim 2 wherein the high vinyl polydiene rubber has a weight average molecular weight that is within the range of about 400,000 to about 1,000,000.

29. (currently amended) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in claim 28 wherein the high vinyl polydiene rubber has a ~~number average molecular weight~~ vinyl microstructure content of at least 55 percent.

30. (original) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in claim 29 wherein the ratio of the radius of gyration to weight average molecular weight of the high vinyl polydiene rubber is greater than 0.082 nm²/mol/kg.

31. (original) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in claim 30 wherein the monomodal polydispersity of the high vinyl polydiene rubber is at least 1.4.

32. (currently amended) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in ~~claim 27~~ claim 2 wherein the high vinyl polydiene rubber has a weight average molecular weight that is within the range of about 350,000 to about 2,000,000.

33. (original) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in claim 29 wherein the polydiene repeat units in the high vinyl polydiene rubber are derived from 1,3-butadiene and wherein the high vinyl polydiene rubber is high vinyl polybutadiene rubber.

34. (original) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in claim 29 wherein the polydiene repeat units in the high vinyl polydiene rubber are derived from isoprene and wherein the high vinyl polydiene rubber is 3,4-polyisoprene rubber.

35. (original) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in claim 33 wherein the repeat units in the high vinyl rubber are further derived from a vinyl aromatic monomer.

36. (original) A high vinyl polydiene rubber as specified in claim 35 wherein the vinyl aromatic monomer is styrene and wherein the high vinyl polydiene rubber is styrene-butadiene rubber.